



<http://www.lwvutah.org>

The League of Women Voters of Utah

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JUNE 2014

Convention Filled with Wit, Wisdom



by Lola Britton, LWVUT
Co-President

The League of Women Voters of Utah 2014 Convention was a great success due to efforts by many, including the Salt Lake League and the Utah board of directors. The Willow Creek Country Club was an exceptionally beautiful setting for both the Friday evening social and the Saturday

morning business meeting. Thanks to Nancy Wingelaar for sponsoring and making the arrangements for food and services. Nancy also put together a basket of wonderful items for a very successful drawing.

Friday evening was a delightful social with good food followed by George Pyle and his unique political wit. If you missed George Pyle's talk, please visit the LWV website.

Saturday's business meeting was opened by Co-President Jenn Gonnely. Attendees introduced themselves and told us what they were most passionate about. The delegates included Davis, Grand, Weber, and Salt Lake local leagues and the state board. Alice Steiner did an excellent job as parliamentarian.

Gigi Brandt presented the proposed LWVUT Program for 2014-15, she noted it was broad and only slightly changed from the 2013-14 program. In addition to the program listed in the handbook, an update to the LWV Utah Tax Study was approved by the delegates.

Marilyn O'Dell presented the slate of officers who had been nominated for the 2014-15 board. Nominations from the floor were received and all

INSIDE:

SL Annual Meeting/p2

Voting for Change/p3-4

U.S. Convention /p3

Program Planning/p5-6

Study Guide Changes/p5

Weber Looks at Gov't/p6

Vote-By-Mail/p7

Farmers Market/p8

Growth Winners/p8

Community Luncheon/p9

Prisons/p10

New Members/p11-12

positions were filled.

Outgoing Co-President Nelda Bishop was presented with a small thank you gift from the League, acknowledging the fact that she is still extremely active and the League will continue to look to her for advice on many issues.

Local leagues discussed their accomplishments for the previous 12 months. Most notable among the many accomplishments by all the local leagues was the Grand County League, which increased its membership by 104 percent.



A Call to Join us on June 3 for the
63rd Salt Lake LWV Annual Meeting

5:30-7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Headquarters
445 E. 4500 S #125, Salt Lake City

Great Food.....Potluck at 5:30
Great Meeting: all our members.....Begins at 6:15
Highlights of the 2013-14 year.....Lola Britton/Karen McCoy
Vote for new board members.....Nominating Committee
Proposed 2014-2015 Budget.....Stuart Gygi
Proposed 2014-2015 Program
Discussion & Adoption.....Lola Britton/Karen McCoy

Our annual meeting provides a great opportunity for all of us to celebrate our past year's accomplishments, including an incredibly well-done and well-received Prison Relocation Study, the work and impact of the Legislative Corps, and the fascinating, insightful Agriculture Study Update.

Equally important, this meeting will allow us to begin to focus on programs that address important Salt Lake County issues for the new League year. These potentially include mental health services, water conservation, canyon transportation, preschool education, and other issues identified in our program planning process.

Your presence and input = A Roadmap for an Engaging LWVSL Year!
— *Karen McCoy, LWVSL Co-president*

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Voting for Change: Young Utah at the Polls

by Kayla LeFevre

Two years ago I became eligible to vote for the first time in Utah during the lead-up to the 2012 presidential election. I carefully studied the candidates, listened to their platforms, and then cast my vote for a non-Republican candidate—but in a state dominated by the GOP, many saw my choice as a waste of time.

“I don’t vote in Utah,” my friend Elise admitted. “It’s pointless. I already know how Utah will vote.”

It is no secret that Utah is notorious for its Republican leanings. We’re well known across the nation as a reliable red state, and every four years the Republican candidate knows he (or she) can count on our six Electoral College votes even before the final ballot has been cast. But my response has been the same every time someone’s asked why I’d bother to go to the polls: the only way a vote can be wasted is if it’s not used.

Alex Lovell says the state numbers might look quite different in Utah if 700,000 voters (the number of eligible Utah voters who never cast a ballot) showed up on Election Day. A graduate student at the University of Utah finishing a Ph.D. in comparative politics, Lovell says, “I think there are more Democrats (in the state) than we might know.”

During the 2012 presidential election, Utah’s population was more than 2.8 million. Out of those residents, more than 1.8 million were eligible to vote—almost two-thirds of the population. But less than 1.3 million registered with the state election board, and on Election Day only one million Utahns actually cast a ballot. This means almost half of all eligible Utah voters failed to exercise their most precious right as U.S. citizens. It also means the votes cast for the Republican candidate Mitt Romney (who took the state with 750,000 ballots) represented only 41 percent of Utah’s eligible voters.

Utah’s voter participation results haven’t always looked so dour. In the last 35 years, turnout has declined from 67 percent (in 1980) to our current 56 percent, with the biggest decline occurring between ‘92 and ‘96, when participation plummeted more than 15 percentage points.

One reason for this dramatic decline may involve the change in political parties occupying the White House. Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush, both Republicans, held the office from 1980 through 1992 when participation was relatively high. Utah’s sharpest decline began when President Clinton, a Democrat, defeated Bush in ‘92.

“When your party loses, it tends to have a detrimental effect on the probability of voting in future elections,” Lovell explains. “When you see the success of your party, or the success of your beliefs, when you see things that are less isolating, you feel like you have control of the situation—and I

LWVUS 2014 Convention Coming Soon

The League of Women Voters of the United States will hold the 2014 Convention June 6-10 in Dallas, Texas.

Utah is entitled to be represented by delegates from the state board, and the local leagues in Cedar City, Davis, Grand, Salt Lake, and Weber. Delegates will hear from a variety of outstanding speakers, participate in workshops and discussions, and approve issues for support by the League. You can check biographies of speakers and information about important issues on LWV.org. This is a great chance to meet members from other states and discuss issues that are important to all of us. How to amend the constitution, campaign finance laws and redistricting will be at the top of the agenda. If you would like to attend, contact your local league president for more information. Watch for a report on the convention in the next *Voter*.

— *Janice Gygi, Convention Delegate*

think that feeling makes people more likely (to vote),” he says.

But these things also have a way of changing. “I think if we saw a few more districts (voting in) Dems, you’d probably see a great deal more emphasis in the state by the Democratic Party,” Lovell adds.

It’s a bit of a Catch-22, the U of U grad student admits; the public is less likely to vote if they do not feel represented, but representation can only follow the act of voting. Ultimately however, this means that more Utahns must register and then exercise their voting rights, Lovell explains. Otherwise change never has a chance. “If more Democrat voters showed up at the polls on Election Day, they would have more representation at the state level.” An obvious statement, perhaps—but an important one nonetheless.

Our representatives can only do what the public elects them to do. If only half of the population participates in elections, then that half gets to determine policy for the rest of us, whether we like it or not. We might want small government with diverse voices, or we might want national unity with the right to privacy, or education or immigration reform, or change in our energy policies. But one thing’s for sure: our voices will never be fully heard in either state or national races until we communicate them clearly at the ballot box.

Note: The above article was provided to the League of Women Voters of Utah by Kayla LaFevre as part of David Hawkins’ WRTG 5830, Digital Publishing class at The University of Utah. Kayla just graduated with her English B.A., but before she decided her major she was considering studying political science.

“I took David’s class to learn some basic publications tools, and we had a choice to write for the new Lesond program or to write for the League,” Kayla said, after hearing a presentation from Co-president Jenn Gonnelly.

“I grew up in Utah my whole life — central and southern Utah when I was young, and now northern Utah for the last six years. I’ve heard plenty of people complain how “pointless” it is to vote in this state, and I would always argue that our political system is based on voting turnout. So when you said you were interested in an article about youth voter turnout, the choice wasn’t hard to make.

“I had not heard of the League before, but it’s great to know there is a group in Utah that is concerned with representative government. It’s important for people to understand that government is reliant on its people for change, and not the other way around. “

Kayla is looking forward to getting involved in the League in the future and we look forward hearing more from her.

Utah League Co-presidents

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Program Planning Gets Done at SL Annual Meeting

by Kathryn Fitzgerald, Program VP

What more could a person ask for to entice her to the Salt Lake Annual Meeting on June 3, than the chance to meet and chat with members new and old, enjoy great potluck food, and conduct essential League business?

How about the opportunity to be a voice and a mover in setting next year's League program? Though the LWVSL Board has voted to propose continuing the same umbrella Program we had in 2013-14, there are many crucial decisions to be made about the topics our monthly meetings will address.

The SL Board will forward the following issues for your consideration at the Annual Meeting. These five topics generated the most interest at the April 8 Program Planning meeting and in online comments. I have added some of the intriguing questions we might ask about them:

1. Water use and conservation in Salt Lake County: Who or what are the biggest consumers of water in SLCo? What are our water sources? Does the County face competition for its water resources? What water districts exist in SLCo? How are water charges determined? What can industry, government and ordinary people do to conserve water? What effects has changing agricultural usage had on water availability?
2. Homeless to housing: How is SLCo progressing in its efforts to permanently house the homeless?
3. Canyon transportation: What new modes of transportation between

Study Guide Revised

When you've volunteered to write a study and are not sure how to do it, the logical thing is to read the "Handbook for Writing a League of Women Voters Study in Utah." It's disappointing but not surprising to find that the last revision, done in 1983, didn't have any reference to electronic media. The internet is now an important tool. After the Education Funding in Utah and the Prison Relocation Study were finished, some League members who worked on the study suggested to the LWVUT Board that the study handbook be revised. First Lola Britton and Karen McCoy transferred the 1983 handbook to an electronic format. Then Kathryn Fitzgerald, Tina Hose, Sandy Peck and I spent time going over it to make it as up to date and concise as possible. We also added some tasks that need to be done to document the study and its distribution. A link to the new version is available on the League web site, lwvutah.org on the "League Studies" page and the "Utah League Information" page under the "Get to Know the League" heading.

—Marilyn O'Dell, LWVUT
Nominating Chair

resorts are being proposed? What impacts will these have on the environment (watershed, air quality etc.) and human use of the areas? Who are the people making the proposals?

4. Pre-school education: What are the details of Mayor McAdams public-private partnership proposal?

5. County-wide mental health services: who provides mental health services, how they are funded, and what services are available?

The annual meeting will give you the chance to discuss these issues, to volunteer to work on preparation for meetings, and to propose issues you feel should be on the list but aren't. It is an axiom that not all voices carry the same weight in these conversations: those that volunteer to work on the topic—that add their whole bodies to their voices—are louder than those that don't.

Weber County Looks at Government Structure

by Terri McCullouch

The Weber League held their Annual Meeting at Sonora Grill April 14. At that time, we explained the update of the Local Government Study that a team of members has been working on. Due to some local actions, some of our members felt we needed to move quickly to have an updated position statement concerning the structure of the local government in Weber County. We took a poll of the board and adopted this update. Members have been working on it for the last couple of months, with a goal of possibly trying to get the topic on the ballot for voters. During the interim, we are operating on the old study and firmly believe our government structure in Weber County is ineffective, does not balance the legislative and executive functions, and does not represent the entire county.

We always use annual meeting as an opportunity to informally gather ideas about topics of interest for the next year. Some of these include: presentations on local preparedness, how to access campaign finance information, mental health facilities (or lack of), public lands, water usage, how to grow a sustainable, organic, safe food, and what regulates how a commission deals with bond money voted on by the people.

We also held our membership orientation meeting in May. We have not done this for quite a few years, and while the turnout wasn't as great as we had hoped, it was an excellent discussion. We thank Jenn Gonnely for attending with us and providing insight on the state League.

Our membership has grown this year, but unfortunately, we have lost quite a few members to death or moving away. We are really excited about the new members we do have as they are enthusiastic and will help breathe new life into our organization.

The Weber League wishes all a very safe and pleasant summer.

Tax Study Volunteers Needed

The 2014 State Convention approved a program item that includes a study on tax policy.

Since I proposed it I volunteered to chair the study.

Ann O'Connell and Sandy Peck have volunteered to work on this committee. No timeline has yet been set.

This is the time for League members to join us and have an input into this study. If you're interested, email me at maodell2@gmail.com or call at 801-393-7225.

— Marilyn O'Dell, Chair

Davis County Tests Vote-By-Mail

by Kathy Stockel, LWV Davis County

I find it exciting that Davis County chose to test vote-by-mail for Utah and am looking forward to the June 24th Primary Election. Will vote-by-mail increase voter turnout as anticipated? Will it be more cost-effective? On a personal level, will it give me the same thrill as waiting in line for a voting machine?

I've been voting for over 40 years yet retain a sense of privilege: we get to vote, while so many people will never experience this level of participation in their government. A sense of drama excites me: Will this race be won/lost by a single vote and each person who voted or decided not to vote be a game-changer?

I will never forget the myriad emotions suffusing me the first time I voted for myself as a candidate. What courage it took to run; how strange to see my name and realize I had pushed my boundaries way beyond my comfort level. (FYI: I lost. I think losing taught me more about myself, and about campaigning, than winning could have. I won the next two times.)

I have options: If I have questions beforehand I can go to the Davis County official election site and watch two videos. I can still go to one of seven polling places in Davis County on Election Day. Parents and grandparents can still take their children to a polling place to demonstrate their commitment to exercising the right to vote. Or we can have a family round-table discussion before we fill out mail-in ballots.

I strongly support mail-in voting and hope we in Davis County absolutely astound with a very high percentage of people returning their ballots. (The town of Riverdale doubled the number of people voting in a municipal election - plus cut the cost in half, according to a *Standard Examiner* story March 15.)

I suspect the same emotions will be present when I fill out my ballot. After all, I loved to foxtrot and jitterbug, but that didn't lessen my pleasure in joining Chubby Checker in the Twist. And when online voting arrives (as I believe it will before too long) I'll borrow the nearest computer-savvy ten-year-old and feel those same emotions as I click "enter" at the end of the online ballot.

If it means more people participate in government, I'm in favor.

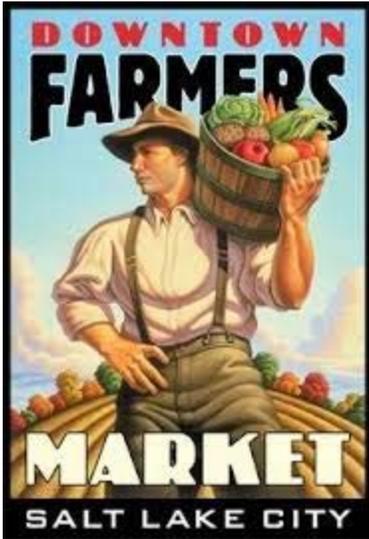


Hinckley Forums

are held in Orson Spencer Hall, Room 255, at the University of Utah. All forums are free and open to the public and are sponsored by the Hinckley Institute of Politics and The Sam Rich Program in International Politics.

<http://www.hinckley.utah.edu/events/forums/index.html>

Farmers Market a League Opportunity



by Karen McCoy & Nancy Wingelaar

Can you smell it in the air and feel it in your bones? Summer is coming and with it the Downtown Farmers Market with great veggies, clever crafts, yummy breads, and the **League of Women Voters** serving the public by staffing our booth with our members who are there to register voters and answer questions about the League and some of the workings of our local and state government. Wouldn't you like to be a part of this? It is simple and we provide you with all you need to provide this service. We have been very successful in past years, and besides that it's fun.

The Farmers Market is part of the League mission to "encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government." This has been a very successful voter service project to increase voter education and understanding of the critical role of ALL citizens participating in all federal, state and local elections. At the Saturday Downtown Farmers Market at Pioneer Park, League volunteers help folks register to vote, distribute voting-related materials, and encourage registered voters to cast their ballots.

We are planning to have a League table/booth there once a month during the summer season where we will have two shifts (8-10:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.) and will need at least two volunteers for each shift. Current scheduled dates include July 5, September 13, and October 4. If you might be interested, please email Nancy Wingelaar, Jnwingelaar@aol.com or Carole Straughn, carolefs222@gmail.com. Great fun meeting interesting people while getting your fresh veggies and fruit!

Growing the League Together: Growth Challenge Winners (NEW)

LWVUS is pleased to announce that the Leagues with the greatest percentage of membership growth from January 31, 2013–January 31, 2014 are:

Leagues with fewer than 50 members: LWV of Grand County, UT

Leagues with 51-150 members: LWV of Atlanta-Fulton County, GA
Leagues with more than 151 members: LWV of Orange-Durham-Chatham, NC

In addition, of the many Leagues that grew over this past year, two were drawn at random, and those winners are: LWV of Hastings, NE and LWV of Scarsdale, NY. All five Leagues won one free registration for the LWVUS convention in Dallas, TX this June. Congratulations to these Leagues and all Leagues who are building League capacity and welcoming new members.
Cheers!

Congratulations to Grand County for being a leader among local Leagues nationwide!

Growth Dominates Discussion at League Luncheon

by Sue Lind

A predicted Utah population growth from 2.9 million to 5.4 million by 2050 sparked discussion in “A Look Into the Future of our Community.”



The annual State of the Community Luncheon for the League of Women Voters of Salt Lake, held on Thursday, April 17, featured three prominent panelists who looked at what's in store. Doug Fabrizio, known for his radio interviews on KUER, led the conversation with Andrew Gruber, executive director of the Wasatch Front Regional Council, and Alan Matheson,

state planning coordinator and environmental adviser to Gov. Gary R. Herbert.

Utah's population growth will inform water usage and conservation, agriculture sustainability, open land conservation, land availability, high density housing and commercial areas planned around mass transit terminals, air quality, and transportation modes.

Fabrizio's final question was what keeps the other two participants up at night. Gruber worried about keeping Utah's exceptional quality of life, and hoped it could be well enough preserved so that his grown children would want to return and live in Utah. Matheson said that this was also his greatest worry. He still has faith in the future of Utah because he believes people are much more concerned and cooperative in finding solutions to growth in Utah than elsewhere in the country.

A video of the full panel discussion can be found online at www.lwvutah.org. Scroll down on the left to Local Leagues, then click on Salt Lake League.

For more photos of the event, go to this [album](#).

Missed Convention?
Did you miss the Utah State Convention this year? Take a look at our photo album, featuring the dinner/social with George Pyle.
<http://bit.ly/1kpbOXq>



League Tours Units of Draper Prison Facility

by Lola Britton, LWV-SL Co-President

A group of 17 members of the League of Women Voters had an in-depth tour of the Wasatch and Timpanogos complexes at the Draper Correctional facility. Why are these two facilities important?

Wasatch is the oldest building in the Utah State Prison system. Wasatch houses the prison's infirmary, a Family History Center and a non-denominational chapel. Inmates housed in the Wasatch facility have the ability to move around the prison facility to attend work on site, go to educational courses and life skills classes. It may seem as though inmates have a great deal of freedom until you learn they are counted several times a day (11:30 am, 4:30 pm, 8:30 pm and once every hour through the night). Inmates must be in their cell during counts.

Of special interest to those members participating in the tour was the Timpanogos women's facility. There are five buildings making up the Timpanogos facility. The ExCell (a substance-abuse program for women) is housed in this facility, as well as a non-denominational chapel, a gymnasium, an infirmary and library.

There is currently a pilot program where inmates train dogs to care for veterans who have suffered post traumatic stress disorders.

There are many more programs not mentioned in this article; all help inmates return to their communities and contribute to society.

Prison System Failing?

Read a compelling report from CNN's Crossfire, featuring co-hosts Newt Gingrich and Van Jones.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/05/21/opinion/gingrich-jones-prison-system-fails-america/>

New Members

Julie Kadrmas

551 E 50 North, NSL 84054

801-309-3933 jlnkadrmas@gmail.com



Julie Kadrmas is originally from Elyria, Ohio. She graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry, and received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Duke University before moving to Utah with her husband Dan in 1997. She is a professor of Oncological Sciences at the University of Utah, working at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. She has two daughters currently in junior high school. She enjoys bicycling, yoga, reading and gardening. She joined the League of Women Voters at the urging of her mother-in-law, who is active in the Davis County chapter, and appreciates being better informed on a wide variety of issues affecting Utah. She is particularly interested in public K12 education, higher education, responsible stewardship of the environment, and science advocacy.

Janet Robins

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801-560-6097 janet@thesafetyconsortium.com

Janet Robins was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and moved to the Salt Lake area at age 13. She works as an accountant and office administrator with the Safety Consortium. Janet serves as the co-chair for the Utah affiliate of the National Parents Organization. She is an enthusiastic sailor who owns a sailboat and is an active member of the Salt Lake Astrology group. Janet said she has recently become more politically active and been involved with lobbying and legislation, coming to realize she can make a difference. She thinks the League of Women voters can help educate her in the political arena.

Laurie West

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Laurie was born and raised in Salt Lake City, graduating from West High School. She has two sons and two grandsons. She moved to Layton 25 years ago to be closer to her job at Hill Air Force Base. Her civil service employment at four different agencies, spanning more than 34 years, ended about 3.5 years ago when she retired as a network administrator. She now spends her time having adventures with her grandkids, traveling, hiking, biking, reading, crafting, cooking, doing her own home repairs, and playing in her gardens. One of her first accomplishments after retirement was completing USU Extension Service's Master Gardener program. She volunteered two years at Kaysville Botanical Gardens and this year will be

'A Viper for Voting Rights'

Read a report by writer Doug Clark in North Carolina's News & Record about Florida's League president and her [fight for fair elections](#).

volunteering at Red Butte Gardens. She's been involved in local and grassroots politics for the past 11 years and looks forward to being involved with LWV.

Margene Wrigley

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Margene Wrigley was born and raised in Salt Lake City. She has worked for more than 30 years as a licensed Realtor at Re/Max Associates and is a relocation specialist. Margene has earned her broker's license and is a Certified Residential Specialist. She is a graduate of the Realtor Institute and a member of the Realtor Hall of Fame, an award given to agents with a high sold dollar volume, participation in Salt Lake Board activities and committees, and ethical business practices. She has served on her Homeowners Association in Woodstock Village, is a member of the Utah Radon Coalition and is working towards education of the residents of Utah as to the dangers of Radon in our homes. Margene is an avid golfer and competes in Utah Golf Association sanctioned tournaments. She is married, mother of two and grandmother of two. "I love my life!" she says. The "League of Women Voters is an excellent conduit for current political information" and is a way of "keeping me informed of unbiased facts." She looks forward to serving on a LWV committee when her current commitment to real estate subsides.

**Patsy Washburn
Salt Lake City, UT**

**It's Interim at the
Legislature**

Are you interested in learning what our legislators are tackling before the 2015 session? Then tune in to our Legislative Updates (on the League website or on our Facebook page). Take a look at the [schedule](#) already in place for the summer.

If you'd like to join the League's Legislative Corps, please contact Tina in the office - (801) 272-8683.

League of Women Voters of Salt Lake
3804 Highland Dr. Suite 8-D
Salt Lake City, UT 84106

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization
that encourages informed and active participation in government.

63rd Salt Lake LWV's Annual Meeting

June 3

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Girl Scout Headquarters

445 E. 4500 S #125, Salt Lake City

The League of Women Voters of the United States

2014 Convention

June 6-10

Dallas, Texas

